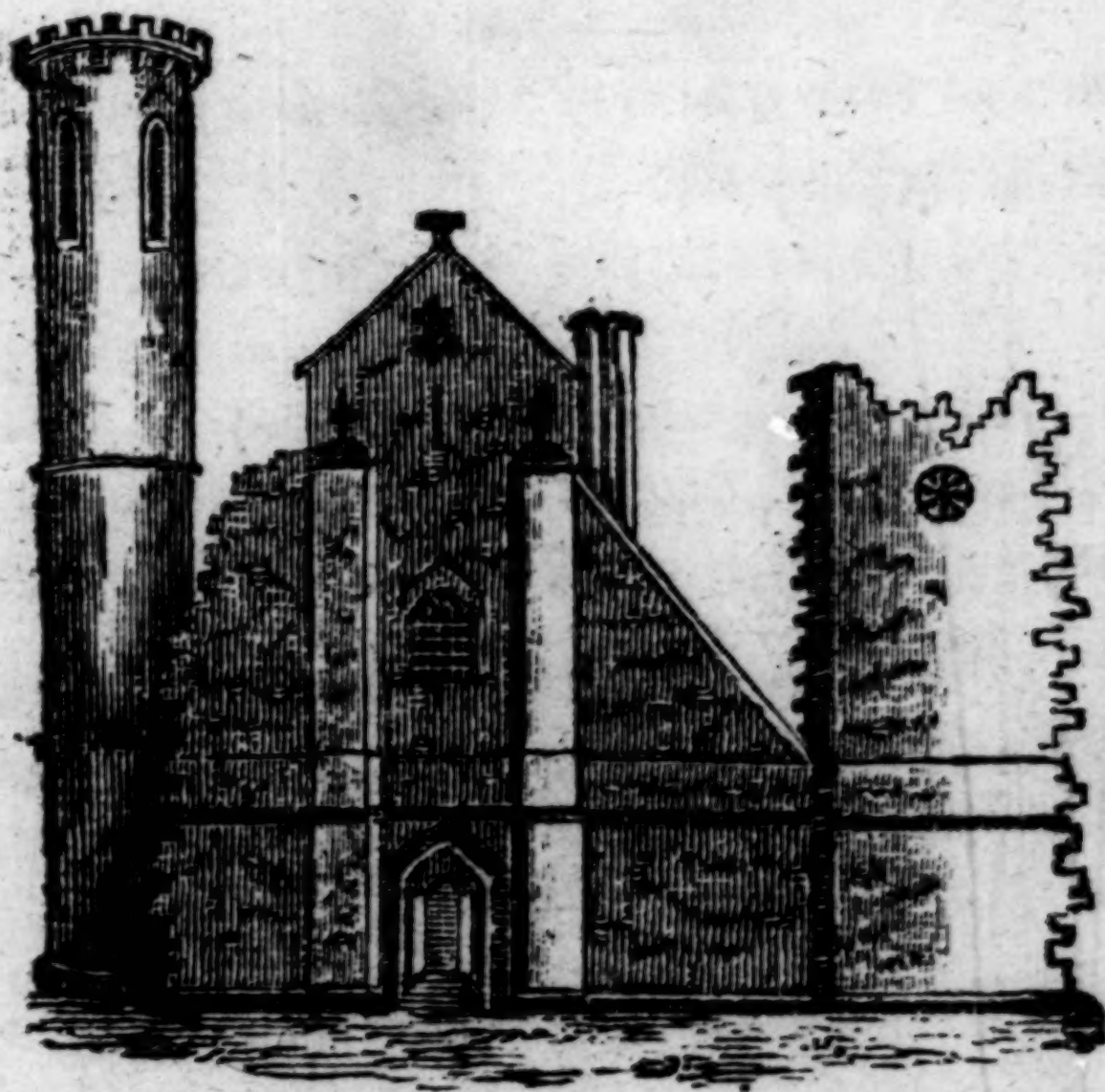


A
WALK
THROUGH
HARDWICKE GARDENS,
NEAR SEDGEFIELD,
In the County of Durham.



STOCKTON UPON TEES:
PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF W. ELSTOE,
OPPOSITE THE TOWN HALL.

MDCCC.



HARDWICKE GARDENS.



HARDWICKE, the seat of MATTHEW RUSSELL, Esq. stands near half a mile to the West of Sedgefield, in the County of Durham; the extensive pleasure grounds appertaining to which, have long been celebrated for the exquisite taste with which they are laid out, and the superb ornaments they are enriched with: they contain a hundred and fifty acres, and were first designed in the year 1750, and soon after carried into execution, with a liberality and spirit, which will ever reflect a lustre on the name of the late JOHN BURDON, Esq.

The entrance into the grounds is by a serpentine path, leading to the

GRAND TERRACE,

or principal walk, which, from its great extent, is well calculated to strike the stranger with admiration; it is enclosed on each side with lofty trees, till an opening, on the left hand, presents to the view one of the finest sheets of water in the North of England, which covers a space of forty-four acres; the walk has a gentle descent to a large circular bason of water in the centre of it, and is terminated by the

BATHING HOUSE,

an elegant building of the Doric Order. On the right hand of the Terrace, opposite the bason, is a grass slope leading to a spacious Bowling Green, on the further side is the

GOTHIC SEAT,

which is ascended by a flight of steps; the floor is laid with black and white marble, and the roof is supported by Gothic arches.

The Bath has an open portico in front, with a neat room on each side,
one

one to sleep in, and the other to breakfast in; in the former is a painting of *Apollo leaning on his lyre, and the Muses washing his feet.* The bathing basin is in a neat apartment through the portico, and is surrounded with handsome iron rails; at each end are recesses to dress and undress in.

From the bath the stranger is conducted by a winding path to the

BONA RETIRO

or pleasant retirement, a building in the rude Gothic style, in front of which is an extensive canal, with a cascade which falls into it, surrounded with lofty trees; altogether exhibiting a pleasing picture of the taste of former ages, and an agreeable contrast to the magnificent and splendid edifices which ornament other parts of the grounds. On entering the building, the reflexion of the cascade in a looking-glass has a fine effect, affording no less pleasure than the real one. The upper room is supposed to be a library, elegantly furnished with paintings and stucco work, representing the heads of several venerable

rable men, intermixed with Cupids, designed, no doubt, to shew that even in retirement from the world, love may still hold its influence on the mind. Between the windows are bookcases, containing to appearance many elegant books, the works of our most esteemed authors, being a deception of the nicest kind, as they are only of painted wood, but so exquisitely finished, as scarcely to be distinguished from real ones. The staircase corresponds with the style of the building, on each side of which, in Gothic niches, are placed the Busts of MARCUS AURELIUS, MARCUS CICERO, SIR FRANCIS BACON, SIR ISAAC NEWTON, BOYLE, and LOCKE. The windows are all adorned with painted glass, added to which, the situation gives it a sombre shade, peculiarly grateful in a building dedicated to retirement. From this building you are conducted through a wilderness, by a serpentine walk, which terminates with a striking view of the lake, the tower of a mock ruin, and and many other pleasing objects.

From the borders of the lake you then approach the

TEMPLE

TEMPLE OF MINERVA,

which stands on an elevated situation in a delightful meadow, and is surrounded with a dry ditch and palisadoes. It is of a quadrangular form, with an open colonade round it, the entablature of which is supported by twenty columns of the Ionic order, and in eight niches are placed the busts of HOMER, VIRGIL, HORACE, MILTON, SHAKESPEARE, BEN JOHNSON, DRYDEN, and POPE. The interior of the temple is eighteen feet square, having an octagonal dome above, decorated with paintings by BORNESO; in the centre is *Minerva with the Gorgon Shield, and Apollo offering her a laurel wreath as a reward of virtue, with the Arts and Sciences at her feet*; below, in large compartments, are represented the four cardinal virtues, *Justice, Prudence, Fortitude, and Temperance*, with their appropriate emblems; in the corners, the four Arts, *Musick, Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture*; and in recesses between the windows are medallions of the four seasons, done in Stucco, by CARTISI. The busts of SOCRATES,
PLATO

PLATO, DEMOSTHENES, JULIUS CÆSAR, MARCUS BRUTUS, TITUS, TRAJAN, and ANTONINUS PIUS also ornament the building; and on the pediment above the door is placed a fine bust of MINERVA. The floor is laid with marble of various beautiful colours in Mosaic work. The colonade commands an extensive view of the surrounding country.

Soon after leaving the temple, you enter a shaded walk, terminated with a stone seat in the rustic style, within which are two excellent busts of LYCURGUS and LUCRETIVS. Turning from this, you approach a handsome

GOTHIC BRIDGE,

of one arch, from which is seen *Neptune* raised upon a pedestal in the midst of a most beautiful serpentine river, which winds around the gardens, with a trident in his hand and a dolphin under his feet. The bridge leads by a winding path to a

MOCK RUIN,

intended to represent the remains of an ancient

ancient castle, with a round tower entire.

You now proceed by the margin of the serpentine river to the

BANQUETING HOUSE,

which stands on rising ground, having a spacious lawn in front, and surrounded by an amphitheatre of wood. The style of building is superb, the front is adorned with six pilasters of the Corinthian order, a Venetian door of glass, and a window on each side, in the Ionic order, with a pediment over each, a circular arch above, and finished with an open balustrade: There is also a handsome bow window at each end of the building, both of which are finished with balustrades, similar to those in the front. Strangers are introduced at the back entrance, in order that they may be the more struck with the magnificence and splendour which every where prevail in this noble apartment, the effect of which, description fails to convey an adequate idea: The dimensions are sixty-two feet in length, twenty-six feet, two inches in height, and the same
in

in breadth. The ceiling is divided into several compartments, three of which are beautifully painted, and the others richly gilded. The centre compartment, painted by HAYMAN, represents the *Assembly and Banquet of the Gods*, when the decrepid *Vulcan* takes upon him the office of the elegant *Ganymede*, and fills the cup with nectar, which with awkward grace, he presents to the assembled Deities; the contrast between him and the lovely youth, makes them so merry,

“That unextinguish’d laughter shakes the
skies.”

The two other compartments are painted by WALE, and represent, the one, *Thetis petitioning Jupiter*, that the Greeks may be vanquished by the Trojans so long as her son *Achilles* absents himself from the field of battle; the other, *Venus, attended by the Loves and Graces, presenting her Cestus to Juno*. The stucco work, cornices, doors and other ornaments are highly finished by CARTISI, and richly gilded: around the room, on eight beautiful brackets adorned with elegant gilded drapery, are placed the busts of FLORA, SAPPHO,
FAS-

FASTINA the elder, PALLADIO, CORNELA, VIRGIL, VETRUVIUS, and INIGO JONES. Above the doors are two paintings by HAYMAN, representing the *Marriage of Cupid and Psyche*, and a *Procession of Bacchanals*, a fragment of ancient history. Over the fire-place is a fine full length portrait of Mr BURDON, esteemed a striking likeness, painted by QUADAL, a German. The chimney-piece is extremely noble, being ornamented with columns of jasper, and marble of various kinds, beautifully inlaid: The grate, &c. of polished steel, are highly finished, and equal in beauty and ornament to the rest of the building. There is a small room adjoining, called the

PLEASANT RECESS.

which is lined with green, and neatly finished with a gilded bordering.

After leaving the banqueting house you are conducted through a serpentine walk to the upper end of the grand Terrace, nearly opposite to that by which you first entered it; quitting with regret those charming scenes which never fail
to

to leave a lasting impression on the memory. To describe the beautiful prospects which every where present themselves, interspersed with all the variety of romantic scenery, that the most luxuriant fancy could contrive, would be a vain attempt; imagination may form some idea of them, which description never can convey. There is, however, a point of view which may here be mentioned; in approaching the ruin, in one direction, the serpentine river makes a swift turn, takes a deep channel, covered thick with wood on each side, and forming an extensive canal, retires in long perspective, which is closed at the extremity by the beautiful Gothic Bridge, when the view of its course is intercepted, being so contrived as to fade away from the sight. The tower of the ruin commands an extensive prospect on every side; and the tower of Sedgefield church is a pleasing addition to the prospect from whatever direction it is viewed.

FINIS.

W. Elstob, Printer, Stockton.



